

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 032905

R 200600Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2720

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI AO

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION: LOSS OF AIRCRAFT: TROOPS REFUSE TO
FIGHT

1. ARMED FORCES COMMAND HAS REPORTED LOSS ON JUNE 12 OF PAF
HELICOPTER ON AN OPERATIONAL SUPPORT MISSION IN CABINDA. LOSS
TOOK PLACE EAST OF MUABI. TWO CREWMEN PRESUMED DEAD BUT WRECKAGE
HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND.

2. THIS REPORT ONLY APPEARED IN LUANDA PRESS JUNE 19, ALTHOUGH
WE HAD HEARD OF ACCIDENT SEVERAL DAYS AGO. UNABLE TO CONFIRM,
HOWEVER, SINCE USUAL SOURCES IN HIGH COMMAND HAVE BEEN UNAVAILABLE
TO US (AND TO OTHER CONSULAR MISSIONS AS WELL). ACCORDING TO OUR
INFORMATION HELICOPTER WAS DOWNED BY SAM 7 MISSILE FIRED FROM
CONGO - PRESUMABLY BY NETO'S MPLA.

3. IN SEPARATE REPORT WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM IN-
DIRECTLY WITH HIGH COMMAND SOURCE, AN ARMY CAPTAIN IN CABINDA
LAST WEEK REFUSED TO OBEY AN ORDER TO ENGAGE IN OFFENSIVE
OPERATIONS, SAYING THAT WAR FOR HIM AND HIS TROOPS HAD ENDED. WE
UNDERSTAND THIS WAS NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT, BUT WE CANNOT SAY
WHETHER IT REPRESENTS A GROWING TREND. AMERICAN NEWSMAN JUST
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RETURNED FROM CARMONA REPORTS SIMILAR ATTITUDES PREVAIL AMONG

PORTUGUESE TROOPS IN NORTH, BUT HE APPARENTLY IS UNAWARE OF ANY
REFUSALS TO ENTER COMBAT.

4. IN JUXTAPOSITION, INTERNATIONAL NEWS BROADCASTS JUNE 19 SAY
HOLDEN ROBERTO HAS ACCUSED SAVIMBI OF "HIGH TREASON" FOR AGREEING
TO CEASE FIRE WITH PORTUGAL. FNLA REPORTEDLY ORDERED (AGAIN)
TO INCREASE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN NORTH.
BRIGGS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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